

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

# *Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience*

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### Matthew 18:15-35 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

Reconciliation = to make friends again, the ability to take 2 differing ideas/approaches & help them coexist

- *By its very nature reconciliation takes both sides*
- *& it requires forgiveness*

Forgiveness = stopping the feeling of anger & thus not requiring repayment

- *This by its very nature takes 1*
  - *Forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean reconciliation*
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## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 18:15-35 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

This morning we will look at:

- 1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness
  - 2) What is at the heart of forgiveness?
  - 3) How do we practically do this?
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## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 18:15-20 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

- 1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness

Most people today do 1 of 2 things when something is done to them:

- They BLOW in entitlement
  - They keep quiet
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Matthew 18:15-20 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness

What does Jesus prescribe?

➤ Go to them 1x1

Prov. 25:9 Argue your case with your neighbor himself & do not reveal another's secret,

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What does Jesus prescribe?

➤ Go to them 1x1

➤ Reality check with others

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1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness

What does Jesus prescribe?

- Go to them 1x1
  - Reality check with others
  - Inclusion of the church
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1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness

What does Jesus prescribe?

- Go to them 1x1
  - Reality check with others
  - Inclusion of the church
  - Extreme conclusion = treat them like a pagan
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Matthew 18:18-35 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness

*“Loose” = forgive*

*“binding” = retain*

John 20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

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Matthew 18:23-35 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness

2) What is at the heart of forgiveness?

a) *Grasping our level of forgiveness*

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- 2) What is at the heart of forgiveness?

a) *Grasping our level of forgiveness*

Tom Wright:

“Every time you forgive someone else you pass on a drop of water from the bucketful that God has already given you.”

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Matthew 18:26-27 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

- 1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness
- 2) What is at the heart of forgiveness?

a) *Grasping our level of forgiveness*

b) *The inner composure of forgiveness = patience*

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“Patient” = makrothumia = compound word

➤ makro = long-tempered

➤ thumia = boiling over, usually means anger in the Bible

*It is to take your deep seated feelings of anger & put them at a distance*

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Luke 21:19 “In patience possess ye your soul”

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Heb. 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

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I Tim. 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience (makrothumia) as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient (makrothumia) toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

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Matthew 18:27 – Reconciliation, forgiveness & the call to patience

- 1) The dilemma of reconciliation = Forgiveness
- 2) What is at the heart of forgiveness?
- 3) How do we practically do this?

a) *“Took pity on him” = identified with them*

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Tom Wright - “From God’s point of view the distance between being ordinarily sinful (what we all are) & extremely sinful (what the people we don’t like seem to be) is like the distance between London & Paris seen from the point of view of the sun.”

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- 3) How do we practically do this?

- a) *“Took pity on him” = identified with them*
- b) *“Canceled the debt” = no revenge*

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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- a) *“Took pity on him” = identified with them*
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  - c) *“Let him go”*
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This is what a grateful heart can do:

- *A grateful heart can push far anger away*
  - *A grateful heart can take pity, can be moved deeply because it knows it isn't any better*
  - *A grateful heart can cancel a debt owed because it is simply spooning out of a well it didn't dig*
  - *And a grateful heart can then let it go without repayment*
- If we cannot forgive, we are not sensing our own forgiveness
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